

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 HEW-04 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-10
EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 /121 W
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O 192140Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7601
US MISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 722

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4048

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS WHO IS IF BR
SUBJECT: WHO: DRAFT ARAB RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL

REFS A. STATE 127481 B. GENEVA 7719 C. GENEVA 7684, D. GENEVA 7626

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY MADE REPRESENTATION (REF A) TO BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CONCERNING ARAB RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL BEING TABLED AT WHA IN GENEVA. JOAO TABAJARA, CHIEF OF DIVISION OF SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, APPEARED TO BE WELL-INFORMED ON ISSUE BUT WAS NON-COMMITTAL AS TO SPECIFIC BRAZILIAN ACTION. EXPRESSING SOME CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE POLITICIZATION OF WHO AS A RESULT OF EXTREME RESOLUTION, TABAJARA PROMISED ONLY THAT HIS SUPERIORS WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED AND EMBASSY WOULD BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED OF GOB RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY POLOFF CALLED ON JOAO TABAJARA, CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY DIVISION OF SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, TO URGE THAT GOB OPPOSE ARAB RESOLUTION TABLED AT WHA (REF A). EMBOFF STRESSED REFUSAL OF ARAB COUNTRIES TO MODIFY RESOLUTION, AND POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON WHO IF RESOLUTION PASSED. EMBOFF TRANSMITTED COPY OF MOST RECENT VERSION OF ARAB RESOLUTION (REF D), EXPLAINING THAT RESOLUTION AS TABLED MIGHT DIFFER SLIGHTLY AS TO
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GRAMMAR AND DOCUMENTATION. EMBOFF ALSO PASSED LIST OF 13 NON-ARAB SPONSORS OF RESOLUTION TO TABAJARA (REF B), WHO ADMITTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD NO SUCH INFORMATION. HE SPECIFICALLY URGED THAT WE TRANSMIT ANY UPDATED LIST TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. TABAJARA THANKED EMBOFF FOR KEEPING FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMED OF EVENTS OF PAST WEEK, AND INDICATED THAT GOB DELEGATION IN GENEVA

WAS ALSO TRANSMITTING FREQUENT MESSAGES TO BRASILIA ON TOPIC. IN THIS REGARD, HE NOTED CONVERSATION BETWEEN MINISTER SORENSON AND BRAZILIAN CHARGE (REF C) AS EVIDENCE OF GOB CONCERN AND A ACTIVITY IN GENEVA TO AVOID OPEN POLARIZATION ON ISSUE. WHILE NON-COMMITTAL AS TO GOB SYMPATHIES, TABAJARA EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT VOTE ON RESOLUTION WOULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS MAY 20 AND HOPED THAT DELAY INTO NEXT WEEK WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO "WATER DOWN" RESOLUTION SO AS TO MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE. HE COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON DETAILS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION WITH WHICH HE WAS ALREADY FAMILIAR SAYING THAT BRAZIL HAD VOTED IN FAVOR OF "SIMILAR" THOUGH LESS INFLAMMATORY RESOLUTION DURING 1977 WHA SESSION, THUS IMPLYING GOB MIGHT GO ALONG WITH SIMILAR WATERED-DOWN VERSION OF THIS ARAB-SPONSORED RESOLUTION.

4. TABAJARA EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE SPEED OF EVENTS IN GENEVA AND PROMISED THAT OUR REPRESENTATIONS WOULD BE CONVEYED IMMEDIATELY TO HIS SUPERIORS. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AMBASSADOR LINDENBERG SETTE, CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND AMBASSADOR BAENA SOARES, SPECIAL SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. TABAJARA PROMISED TO KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF EVOLVING GOB POSITION.

JOHNSON

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